Confederate Gen. Jubal A. Early and his 13,000 men charged Union forces along the Monocacy River on July 9, 1864. To divert Union forces away from Washington, D.C., Early was mounting a diversionary attack against Capt. William F. Wallace of the 8th Pennsylvania Cavalry, who was defending a railroad bridge over the Monocacy near Rockville, Maryland. In the Battle of Monocacy, Wallace finally drove the Confederates back, which ended Early’s invasion of Maryland.

The Shenandoah Valley, an avenue of invasion, was defended not only by Richmond but also by the railroad from Point Lookout, Maryland. Its capture would reduce the Confederacy’s last invasion.

Confederate Gen. Jubal A. Early

Hunters’ Raid


Lincoln at Fort Stevens

Lincoln at Fort Stevens

The Lincoln at Fort Stevens monument is located in Washington, D.C., near Fort Stevens. The monument commemorates President Abraham Lincoln’s visit to Fort Stevens on July 21, 1864.

The Shenandoah Valley

The Shenandoah Valley was a strategic area of the Civil War. Confederate Gen. Jubal A. Early’s advance on Washington, D.C., prompted President Abraham Lincoln to order Maj. Gen. John McCausland to lead the 1st Virginia Volunteer Cavalry as a mobile force to guard the Shenandoah Valley.

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